

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.7.2019 – 30.9.2019)

Purpose

This paper aims to provide members a general overview on management and protection work conducted by the Country and Marine Parks Authority during the period between 1.7.2019 – 30.9.2019. It provides various figures and information for facilitating members to understand and offer advice to the Authority regarding the management of country and marine parks.

A. Country Parks & Special Areas

1. Country Parks Management

1.1 Management Services

Routine maintenance of all recreational facilities within county parks and special areas was carried out regularly for public enjoyment. Major country parks facilities provided and amount of refuse collected are shown below for reference.

Major facilities provided for public enjoyment

Item	Total no. as at 30.9.2019	Item	Total no. as at 30.9.2019
Barbecue Site	163	Shelter	293
Picnic Site	155	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	98
Morning Walker Garden	20	Portable Toilet	123

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

Jul., 2019	Aug., 2019	Sep., 2019	Total
156 (169)	141 (151)	193 (247)	490 (567)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2019-2020 fire season started on 13.9.2019. Detailed figures are summarised below:

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
Jul., 2019	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Aug., 2019	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Sep., 2019	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Total	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

In the reporting period, 127 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to hold events in country parks. The monthly breakdown is provided below:

Month	Sporting competition	Location filming	Other events
Jul., 2019	4	31	2
Aug., 2019	11	29	2
Sep., 2019	13	30	5
Total	28	90	9

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 18 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 5 of them, the other 13 were being processed. Most of these were related to minor works concerning electricity supply and slope works.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 2,268,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

Jul., 2019	Aug., 2019	Sep., 2019	Total
773,000 (855,000)	723,000 (778,000)	772,000 (739,000)	2,268,000 (2,372,000)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

In the reporting period, a total of 1,789 persons joined the guided tours organised by the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres. Besides, the monthly visitor statistics of the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres are summarised below:

Country Park Visitor Centre/ Education Centre	No. of Visitors		
	Jul., 2019	Aug., 2019	Sep., 2019
Lions Nature Education Centre	16,792	13,136	11,024
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	3,957	3,020	3,960
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	9,724	8,526	12,553
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	5,710	5,240	6,925
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	3,001	2,369	2,071
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	1,838	1,728	2,483
Aberdeen Tree Centre	330	345	804
Volcano Discovery Centre	11,821	10,372	8,963
Total	53,173	44,736	48,783

2.3 Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme has been commenced since March 2010. Detailed figures of the Country Park Volunteer Scheme in the reporting period are summarised below:

Country Park Volunteer Scheme	Jul., 2019	Aug., 2019	Sep., 2019
No. of volunteers/trainees	659	659	713
Total volunteer service hours	1,067.5	1,004	1,425.5

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2018-19 and 2019-20 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. Detailed figures of the programme in the reporting period are summarised below:-

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	0
Primary Schools	1,858
Secondary Schools	217

2.5 Other Education Activities

Details of the education activities organised in the reporting period are summarised below:-

Name of the Activity	Date	No. of Participants	Remarks
“Take Your Litter Home” & “Let’s Go Plastic Free” promotional activities	July to September 2019	4,338	Including exhibitions, game booths and other promotion activities
Excursion with Experts	20 & 27 July, 10, 17 & 24 August, 7 & 28 September 2019	139	
Heritage Fiesta 2019	7, 13, 21 & 27 July 2019	124	

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Jul., 2019	Aug., 2019	Sep., 2019
First aid	7	6	6
Handicapped persons	0	0	0
Return of lost properties	2	0	0

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Jul., 2019	Aug., 2019	Sep., 2019
Pamphlets	3,248	4,142	2,778
Posters	15	14	44
Booklets	394	276	274

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 118 enforcement actions were taken in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance, Forests and Countryside Ordinance and Wild Animals Protection Ordinance. A breakdown of offences is summarized below:

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Illegal entry of bicycle	54
Illegal entry of vehicle	32
Illegal possession of fire-balloons (Hung Ming Lanterns)	1
Damaging and cutting of plant	1
Camping outside designated camping site	10
Littering	1 [△] + 14 [#]
Spitting	0 [△] + 1 [#]
Illegal feeding of monkey	4
Total	118

Remarks: * No. of cases denotes the number of persons intercepted for an offence during the reporting period.

Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

△ Summons

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 30.9.2019, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 30.9.2019	Facilities	Total no. as at 30.9.2019
Warning Sign	91	Information Board	6
Park Sign	12	Boundary Light Buoy	19
Notice Sign (various purposes)	30	Mechanized Vessel Prohibited Zone Buoy	132
Boundary Post	16	Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone Buoy	4
Marker Post (various purposes)	9	Mooring Buoy	24
Way Mark (various purposes)	14	Buoy (various purpose)	52

1.2 Litter

During the report period, the amount of litter collected in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve is as follows:

Marine Park / Marine Reserve	Amount of litter collected (tonnes)			
	Jul., 2019	Aug., 2019	Sep., 2019	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	7.69 (6.38)	8.66 (8.12)	5.81 (6.00)	22.16 (20.50)
Yan Chau Tong	3.66 (2.40)	4.64 (2.86)	3.06 (2.36)	11.36 (7.62)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	5.87 (5.85)	5.99 (6.48)	5.50 (6.29)	17.36 (18.62)
Tung Ping Chau	6.55 (5.90)	6.09 (5.47)	6.35 (7.79)	18.99 (19.16)
Cape D'Aguiar	1.54 (1.35)	1.11 (0.99)	1.37 (1.86)	4.02 (4.20)
The Brothers	0.48 (0.32)	0.32 (0.32)	0.34 (0.31)	1.14 (0.95)
Total	25.79 (22.20)	26.81 (24.24)	22.43 (24.61)	75.03 (71.05)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

During the report period, the number of visitors is as follows:

Marine Park	Jul., 2019	Aug., 2019	Sep., 2019	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	2,705 (3,716)	1,976 (3,916)	2,778 (1,915)	7,459 (9,547)
Yan Chau Tong	988 (1,105)	972 (944)	1,220 (950)	3,180 (2,999)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	110 (156)	59 (208)	149 (130)	318 (494)
Tung Ping Chau	1,422 (3,504)	794 (2,161)	1,501 (2,288)	3,717 (7,953)
The Brothers	72 (119)	66 (194)	122 (150)	260 (463)
Total	5,297 (8,600)	3,867 (7,423)	5,770 (5,433)	14,934 (21,456)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 56 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Jul., 2019	Aug., 2019	Sep., 2019	Total
General information	5	5	6	16
Park facilities	1	1	0	2
Education activities	5	4	11	20
Renewal for fishing permit	2	3	5	10
Ordinance and regulations	1	3	4	8
Total	14	16	26	56

All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 1,419 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Jul., 2019	Aug., 2019	Sep., 2019	Total
Bookmarks	2	3	4	9
Leaflets	800	60	80	940
Tote bags	0	20	10	30
Stickers	100	60	0	160
Folders	110	0	0	110
Thermal mug	0	170	0	170
Total	1,012	313	94	1,419

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 15 educational/publicity activities involving 432 participants were organised. Details are listed below:

Items	No.	No. of servicing Ambassador	Total no. of participant
Education Activities			
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	3	-	9
School Guided Tour	2	-	43
Field Study	1	-	20
Public Seminar	4	-	326
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Marine Parks and Marine Ecological Resources Public Seminar 2019	3	18	18
Marine Parks Ambassador Training Workshop	1	7	7
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park Questionnaire Survey 2019	1	9	9
Total	15	34	432

2.5 During the report period, our Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services and training programs: Marine Parks and Marine Ecological Resources Public Seminar 2019, Yan Chau Tong marine park questionnaire survey 2019, one Marine Parks Ambassador training workshop was organised. A total of 34 ambassadors joined the above activities.

2.6 Up to 30 September 2019, a total of 145 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 58 Ambassadors have completed 40 hours services; 31 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 23 Ambassadors have completed 100 hours services, 17 Ambassadors have completed 150 hours services and 8 Ambassadors completed 200 hours service. Until the end of September 2019, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 10,971 hours.

3. Law Enforcement

3.1 During the report period, a total of 287 advices and 12 verbal warnings were given and 2 prosecution was taken in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve. A total of 10 Joint Anti-illegal Fishing Operations with Marine Police (Marpol) and 1 Joint Anti-illegal Fishing Operations with Fisheries Enforcement and Special Projects Division (FESPD) were conducted in Marine Parks.

Nature of offence	No. of prosecution*	No. of completed hearing**	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure fishing	1	0	0
Other	1	0	0
Total	2	0	0

* The number denotes the cases initiated prosecution proceedings during the reporting period

** During the report period, the prosecution cases are not necessarily the same as the completed hearing cases

C. Advice Sought

Members are invited to comment on the management and protection work conducted by the Country and Marine Parks Authority in country and marine parks.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
October 2019